Statement

The funds sanctioned to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years by the Central Government under the Central Plan.

Year	Amount released *(Rs. in lakhs)*
1999-2000	08.73
2000-2001	24.99
2001-2002 (Upto February, 2002)	09.00

Besides, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, an autonomous organization under this Department, has sanctioned the following amounts to the Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Year	Amount released *(Rs. in lakhs)*
1999-2001	17.06
2000-2002	19.15
2001-2002 (Upto February, 2002)	22.40

Remunerative prices of farmers produce

1004. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are prospects of excellent rabi crop in 2001-2002, surprising even 1999-2000 peak of 209 million tonnes if so, whether adequate steps being taken to safeguard the interests of farmers with regard to remunerative price of their produce, so that past unfortunate incidents of farmers taking desperate steps like suicide do not occur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As against the production of 104.92 million tonnes of food grains during 1999-2000 rabi season, as per the second Advance Estimates, the food grains production is likely to be 100.72 million tonnes during the rabi 2001-02. The production of rabi oilseeds is likely to fall from 82.3 lakh tonnes in

1999-2000 to 78.8 lakh tonnes in 2001-02, as per the Second Advance Estimates.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) is the designated central nodal agency for procurement of paddy, wheat and coarse cereals. In order to facilitate smooth procurement during rabi season, the following steps are being taken:

1. Opening of adequate number of purchase centres in different States to avoid distress sale by the farmers.
2. Making quick payment to the farmers for their produce.
3. Timely procurement of gunnies.
4. Adequate publicity about the procurement prices, Fair Average Quality specifications and purchase centres.
5. Timely deployment of staff in mandies.
6. All complaints relating to distress sale will be taken up immediately with FCI and State governments.
7. In order to closely monitor the MSP scheme, special Control Rooms will be set up in the FCI at their head quarters as well as regional offices to collect and compile daily procurement figures from the State Governments and other procuring agencies. These Control Rooms work on 24 hours basis during the peak procurement season.

The NAFED is the control nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds and pulses. The NAFED is in a state of readiness for undertaking procurement of these commodities. NAFED has planned to organize a conference of various state level agencies in the middle of March 2002 to finalise the arrangements for undertaking procurement operations. All important mandies in the producing areas will be opeative immediately on arrival of stocks so that declared MSPs are paid to the growers for their produce as succor and they are not subjected to any distress sale.